



EMC News

November 3, 2004

Volume 11, No. 9

EMC MEETING LOCATION TRANSIT CENTER 737 WILLOW AVE.

NEW ATTENDANCE POLICY

Submitted by Heather Filiberto

The County Legislature passed Local Law No. 2 of 2004, which enables the Legislature to remove any appointed member of a board, commission, committee, etc. if that member fails to attend three consecutive regular meetings of such board, etc. unless such absence is for good cause and is excused by the chair of the board or committee. This applies to all EMC members. If you are going to be absent from a meeting, make sure to contact the Chair and let him know.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMITTEE UPDATE

Submitted by Steve Uzmann

The Environmental Review Committee met on 10/26. We discussed the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan EAF at length. We also discussed proposed changes to Cornell's Lake Source Cooling water quality monitoring program that would lead to a reduction in the number of sampling locations. The Committee also considered adding to its recommendations submitted last year regarding the proposed Remington Inn on Cayuga Lake.

This ERC meeting had the best attendance we've had all year, however I regret to note that there are several members who have yet to attend a single meeting. We thrive on participation and a diversity of opinion and miss the input of those individuals.

TOWN OF DRYDEN REPORT

Submitted by Joyce Gerbasi

Dryden is having problems with silty water in the Ellis Hollow area, near the quarry. The USGS is working with the town to see if the source of the problem can be found. Debbie Gross, environmental planner, is putting together a questionnaire that can be used for water problems to make sure everyone is dealing with the same facts.

There are also problems near the George Junior Republic, and a blocked culvert and beaver activities have created "Lake George" on the horse meadows. This is usually a short-time spring occurrence, but this year it keeps getting larger. This is producing joy to the bird watchers, but not the neighbors. The trail continuance to Freeville is progressing.

TOWN OF LANSING REPORT

Submitted by Larry Sharpsteen

Lansing continues its review of the Sub-division Ordinance. The Planning Board is doing a site plan review for a cell tower siting. We have reviewed several boundary changes, one lot and small Major subdivisions. The final Plat on the last stage of a multiple stage major residential subdivision has been reviewed and a public hearing scheduled for November. All pretty routine.

more News! ➡

TOWN OF ITHACA REPORT

Submitted by Barney Unsworth

Hungerford Heights Park, located in the Town's East Hill off Dove Drive, is a "neighborhood park" that came into existence in the mid-1980's. Recently, this attractive space was enhanced by the addition of a flourishing young tree, a River Birch (*Betula Nigra*), planted there at the behest of the Town Conservation Board.

The tree is a visible recognition of the achievements of the first winner of the Richard B. Fischer Environmental Conservation Recognition Award. The award has been established by the Town of Ithaca as a way of recognizing the work of some of the outstanding environmentalists who are making an impact on our lives here. The first recipient of the award is Betsy Darlington, whose work in supporting and developing the Finger Lakes Land Trust deserves particular mention among all her other activities. She, in turn, pays tribute to Professor Emeritus Dick Fischer as the one who first sparked her interest in environmental work. He is familiar to our Town Conservation Board and others as a longtime educator and activist, with many years of service on the County Environmental Management Council among his other interests.

Conservation Board members are now soliciting the names and records of those who are eligible for the 2005 Fischer Award. EMC members are urged to give this matter particular attention since they are involved with these activities and these people to a greater degree than most County citizens.

More information concerning the 2005 award can be obtained by contacting Sue Ritter, Assistant Director of Planning, Town of Ithaca, 273-1747.

TESTING METHODS

Submitted by Roger Yonkin

I have recently listened once again to someone criticize the use of particular equipment used to search underground for oil and gas deposits. These are the train of trucks that proceed along highways and roads stopping at regular intervals to lower a device onto the pavement. This device sends vibrations down into the earth to be reflected back up and recorded. This equipment was designed to replace the "old" blasting method of sound recording. I continue to hear that people believe these devices cause damage to surrounding roads, houses and the environment in general. This method of searching was done in Tompkins County during the 1970's. Prior to giving the oil company a permit, I investigated the procedure as well as I could. After issuing the permit, I monitored the work and never determined myself that there was any indication that anything was going on in the vicinity. In addition, I never received a complaint from residences or others along the corridor that was investigated. Perhaps there is some information out there that I am not aware of, but otherwise I have to dispute these rumors (urban legends?) that continue to this day.

See you at the next EMC meeting!

November 10th at 7:00pm

At the Transit Center!!

If you are unable to attend, please contact
Steve Nicholson (539-6923 or
scnfish@clarityconnect.com).